of the small entity extra claim fees. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the following amendments and comments.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add claims 22-32 as follows.

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22. (New) A method of determining stock material usage by a cushioning conversion machine over a period of time during which a plurality of three-dimensional cushioning products are made, comprising:

converting sheet stock material into the plurality of the three-dimensional cushioning products with the cushioning conversion machine during the period of time;

monitoring the stock material usage by the cushioning conversion machine during the period of time; and

storing information regarding the cumulative amount of stock material usage by the cushioning conversion machine during the period of time in a memory.

23. (New) The method as set forth in claim 22, wherein the monitoring includes monitoring the passage of stock material through the cushioning conversion machine during the period of time.

24. (New) The method as set forth in claim 22, wherein the stored information is indicative of the cumulative amount of stock material that passed through the cushioning conversion machine during the period of time in a memory.

25. (New) The method as set forth in claim 22, wherein the monitoring includes monitoring the cumulative length of cushioning products produced by the cushioning conversion machine during the period of time.

26.   (New) The method as set forth in claim 22, wherein the stored information is indicative of the cumulative length of cushioning products produced by the cushioning conversion machine during the period of time in a memory.

27.   (New) The method as set forth in claim 22, further comprising retrieving the stored information.

28.   (New) The method as set forth in claim 27, wherein the retrieving includes transmitting the stored information to a remote location.

29.   (New) The method as set forth in claim 27, wherein the retrieving includes automatically downloading the stored information.

30.   (New)   The method as set forth in claim 22, wherein the converting is accomplished by a conversion assembly of the cushioning conversion machine.

31.   (New) The method as set forth in claim 30, wherein the conversion assembly includes a feed assembly positioned downstream of a forming assembly.

32.   (New) The method as set forth in claim 22, wherein the memory is a non-volatile memory.

REMARKS
Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 6-11, 13 and 15-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 5,571,067 to Ratzel.